

## **REMARKS**

### **Summary**

Claims 1-11 were pending. Claims 1 and 10 have been rewritten and Claims 12-19 added. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

### **Preamble**

The Examiner indicates that no patentable weight has been given to the preamble of Claims 1 and 10. As far as Applicants can discern, the preamble for each of these claims constitutes only a few words, after which the equivalent terms comprising or having are used and the structure of the apparatus is further described. As the second paragraph of each claim depends on the elements following the terms comprising/having, and the first paragraph does not merely recite the intended use of the structure, Applicants submit that the entire first paragraph should be accorded patentable weight.

Nevertheless, Applicants have rewritten the paragraphing of Claims 1 and 10 merely for visual purposes to better emphasize the above discussion. No substantive amendments have been made in this regard.

### **Rejection of Claims**

Claims 1-8 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wada (U.S. Patent 6,474,824). Claim 9 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 1 and submit that Claim 1 overcomes the rejection. Pursuant to the telephonic conversation of August 4, 2005, Wada should have been indicated in item 4 rather than Suguira. Accordingly, all comments are directed towards Wada.

Claim 1 recites an illuminating device that comprises a light source and a light guide plate into which light of the light source is introduced into the interior from a side end face. The light guide plate emits the light in the

interior from an emitting face opposing an illuminated body. The emitting face has a prism shape. Such an arrangement better prevents light leakage from the interior of the light guide plate than arrangements in which the emitting face is planar. In other words, the arrangement of Claim 1 increases the amount of light from the light source that impinges on the illuminated body as less light in the interior from the light source is lost due to reflections at the surface opposing the illuminated body and emission from the surface facing the viewer.

Wada does not anticipate or disclose such an arrangement. Wada teaches a conventional light guide plate in which the emitting face facing the illuminated body is planar. In the light guide plate of Wada, the prism shape is formed on the surface facing the viewer rather than surface opposing the illuminated body. Wada does not anticipate or disclose an arrangement in which the prism shape is formed on the surface opposing the illuminated body.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, Claim 1 is patentable over Wada.

Dependent Claims 2-9 and 11 are dependent upon an allowable claim and thus are allowable, without more.

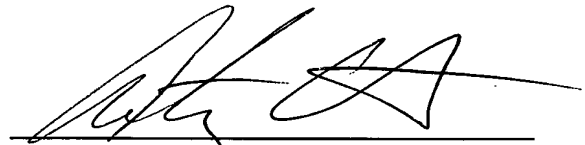
In addition, Wada does not anticipate or disclose an arrangement in which the prism shapes have a flat top portion. In other words, Wada does not anticipate or disclose that the projecting stripes of the prism shape comprise a trapezoidal shape seen in section in which a flat portion is formed in a top portion of the projecting stripe, as recited in Claim 6. Thus, Claim 6 is independently patentable over Wada.

Applicants have added new Claims 12-19. New Claim 12 incorporates the elements of Claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, Claims 12-19 are in condition for allowance.

**Conclusion**

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AP Curtis', is written over a horizontal line.

Anthony P. Curtis, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 46,193  
Agent for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. BOX 10395  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610  
(312) 321-4200